United Nations E/AC.51/1998/L.7Add.22

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
17 June 1998

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Thirty-eighth session
26 May-19 June 1998 (Part I)

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Thomas **Schlesinger** (Austria)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation (item 4 (e))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

1. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 1 June 1998, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme transmitted to it under cover of a note by the Secretary-General stating his concurrence with the recommendations contained in the report (E/AC.51/1998/2).

Discussion

2. It was considered that the report identified a number of key issues that will require the further attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The view was expressed that the work of the Programme was valued. It was noted that the report was being considered by the Committee a few days before the opening of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the drug problem.

3. Concern was expressed regarding reductions in regular budget funds over the recent biennial budget periods. It was noted that some relevant activities had not been fully addressed because of the lack of sufficient resources, as pointed out in the report. It was observed that the prevalence of earmarked voluntary contributions in funding the Programme activities was the source of additional difficulties. It was observed that several proposals presented in the report implied new activities; the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should

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review these proposals, including financial implications. It was felt that the establishment of the new Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention should not detract from the priorities of drug control, and that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should retain their separate identities. It was observed that increased decentralization from Programme headquarters to its field offices was a positive development, but it should be matched by a stronger programme coordination function at headquarters. Mention was made of the importance of the media in disseminating information.

4. It was generally agreed that the recommendations presented in the report were appropriate and useful. In the course of the debate, the following observations were made:

(a) **Recommendation 3**. It was observed that recommendation 3 was addressing a very complex problem and should not be interpreted as a suggestion to amend the scheduling system provided for by the conventions. It was suggested that improvements could be sought not in the scheduling system itself but in the administrative and bureaucratic procedures involved;

(b) **Recommendation 4**. It was stated that in implementing recommendation 4 due attention should be given to the concerns of transit States. It was stated that recommendation 4 (b) should have included the issue of supply reduction;

(c) **Recommendation 13**. The recommended involvement of all relevant programmes and agencies of the United Nations system was strongly endorsed.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee commended the quality and comprehensive nature of the report and its analysis of the complex issues at hand.

6. The Committee recalled the high priority that Member States attached to the Programme, as reflected in the participation of many heads of state and high-level delegations in the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the drug problem.

7. Bearing in mind that the Programme will need to implement the recommendations in the light of the outcome of the twentieth special session, the Committee endorsed recommendations 1 to 14 of the report and transmitted it for review and action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-second session.

8. The Committee recommended that the Programme be fully involved in and operate within the United Nations development assistance framework.

9. The Committee decided that the consolidation of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme should not undermine the critical importance of the comprehensive programme on drug control, which should be fully implemented in accordance with the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

10. The Committee emphasized that the realignment of the Centre for International Crime Prevention with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme should result in better coordination between these entities and should produce important synergies, while safeguarding the multidisciplinary aspects of drug control policy.